

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A system for collecting and transmitting medical and health-related data of at least one user over the Internet, the system comprising:
 - a pre-existing measuring device adapted to measure at least one physiological attribute of a user, comprising:
 - a digital display adapted to display the physiological attribute measurement of the user; and
 - a processor adapted to output a first signal to the digital display, wherein the first signal is related to the physiological attribute measurement of the user;
 - an integration system adapted to acquire the first signal from the pre-existing measuring device such that the first signal is not degraded causing the digital display to read an incorrect value, and adapted to convert the first signal into a second signal for wireless transmission over a network;
 - a communications system adapted to wirelessly transmit the second signal over the network; and
 - a remote system communicatively coupled to the network and adapted to receive the second signal.
2. The system of claim 1, wherein the integration system is coupled to the measuring device in parallel with the processor and the display.
3. The system of claim 1, wherein the integration system is coupled to the measuring device in series with the processor and the display.
4. The system of claim 1, wherein the integration system is adapted to add a unique device identifier to the second signal, the device identifier uniquely identifying the measuring device.
5. The system of claim 1, wherein the integration system includes a second display for visually representing the physiological attribute as indicated by the first signal.
6. The system of claim 1, wherein the second signal is a text string.

7. The system of claim 4, wherein the communications system is adapted to encode the second signal for transmission over the network.

8. The system of claim 7, wherein the remote system comprises:
a computer system adapted to extract from the second signal the measured physiological attribute and the device identifier; and
a database;
wherein the computer system populates the database with the measured physiological attribute and device identifier.

9. The system of claim 8, wherein the integration system adds a unique user identifier to the second signal, and wherein the computer system extracts the user identifier from the encoded second signal and populates the database with the user identifier.

10. The system of claim 1, wherein the measuring device is a weight scale.

11. The system of claim 1, wherein the measuring device is a heart rate monitor.

12. The system of claim 1, wherein the measuring device is a blood pressure monitor.

13. The system of claim 1, wherein the measuring device is a coumadin monitor.

14. The system of claim 1, wherein the measuring device is a pulse oximeter.

15. The system of claim 1, wherein the measuring device is a blood glucose monitor.

16. The system of claim 1, wherein the measuring device is a digital thermometer.

17. The system of claim 1, wherein the measuring device is a fitness machine.

18. The system of claim 1, wherein the communications system transmits the second signal over cell phone transmission bands.

19. The system of claim 1, wherein the communications system uses Bluetooth™ wireless technology.

20. The system of claim 1, wherein the communications system comprises a computer system communicatively coupled to the Internet.

21. The system of claim 1, wherein the remote system wirelessly transmits a receipt message to the communications system after it receives the second signal.

22. The system of claim 1, wherein the integration system and the communications system are built on a same second processor.

23. The system of claim 1, further comprising a web-based portal adapted to allow users to access the data over the network.

24. A method for collecting medical and health-related data representing at least one physiological attribute of at least one user and transmitting the data over a network, comprising:

measuring a physiological attribute of a user with a pre-existing device comprising a processor and a digital display;

sending a first output signal relating to the physiological attribute from the processor to the digital display;

acquiring the first signal from the pre-existing device with an integration system such that the first signal is not degraded causing the digital display to read an incorrect value;

converting the first signal for wireless transmission over a network to a remote system; and wirelessly transmitting the data over the network to the remote system.

25. The system of claim 24, wherein the acquiring step acquires the first signal in parallel with the processor and the digital display.

26. The system of claim 24, wherein the acquiring step acquires the first signal in series with the processor and the digital display.

27. The method of claim 24, further comprising the step of storing the data in the remote system.

28. The method of claim 27, wherein the converting step encodes the physiological attribute, as represented by the electrical signal, into a text string.

29. The method of claim 28, wherein the converting step further adds a unique user identifier and device identifier to the text string, the user identifier corresponding to the user who was measured by the measuring device and the device identifier corresponding to the measuring device.

30. The method of claim 27, wherein the remote system returns a receipt message after it receives the data.
31. The method of claim 24, wherein the measuring device is a weight scale.
32. The method of claim 24, wherein the measuring device is a heart rate monitor.
33. The method of claim 24, wherein the measuring device is a blood pressure monitor.
34. The method of claim 24, wherein the measuring device is a coumadin monitor.
35. The method of claim 24, wherein the measuring device is a pulse oximeter.
36. The method of claim 24, wherein the measuring device is a blood glucose monitor.
37. The method of claim 24, wherein the measuring device is a digital thermometer.
38. The method of claim 24, wherein the measuring device is a fitness machine.
39. The method of claim 24, wherein the transmitting step is accomplished by sending the data using two-way pager hardware for wireless transmission.
40. The method of claim 24, wherein the transmitting step is accomplished by sending the data using a computer system communicatively coupled to the network.
41. The method of claim 24, wherein the transmitting step is accomplished by sending the data using a cell phone network.
42. The method of claim 27, further comprising the step of providing a portal for accessing the data over the network.